

Nominee:

Rutgers Center for Integrated Care
Behavioral Research and Training Institute
Rutgers Health – University Behavioral Health Care

The Rutgers Center for Integrated Care was established following the 2018 *Integrated Care Training: Sustainable Pipeline of Health Care Professionals for New Jersey Planning Grant*. This project brought together eight health professions at Rutgers University, along with key physical and behavioral health stakeholders, to design a plan for transforming healthcare education and practice. The goal was to build an infrastructure for teaching, developing, and delivering integrated care as the standard across disciplines. At the same time, Rutgers received an additional grant, *Advancing the Integration of Behavioral Health into Primary Care in New Jersey*, to implement a train-the-trainer model for embedding behavioral health in primary care. The two-pronged goal was to train the next generation of healthcare providers in team-based care while simultaneously supporting the current generation in implementing it across all health disciplines.

Out of these efforts, in 2019, The Rutgers Center for Integrated Care (CIC) was established. The CIC has already made a large impact in communities served across New Jersey, and nationally, through scholarship, training, and education. CIC has shown its service to the PCBH model in education through the development of a foundational eLearning course to increase PCBH exposure and knowledge, for distribution to students in 9 departments and schools across Rutgers University, including two schools of medicine, psychology, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry, social work, the School of Health Professions which trains medical professionals such as physician assistants, and University Behavioral Health Care. CIC has shown commitment to PCBH training through two interprofessional fellowship programs for licensed and pre-licensure psychologists, social workers, counselors, advanced practice nurses, registered nurses, and physician assistants, that provide didactic and clinical training in collaboration with primary care practices and FQHCs across the state. In 2023 CIC also launched and successfully continues its inaugural integrated primary care psychology track within the APA-Accredited Rutgers UBHC doctoral psychology internship program that originated in the 1970s. CIC provides supervision in PCBH to fellows, doctoral psychology interns, postdoctoral fellows, and the Center's full-time BHCs that have been administering PCBH in primary and specialty care across the Rutgers Health system (family medicine, pediatrics, specialty pediatrics, and OB/GYN) since implementing this model in these practices 2019.

CIC maintains its commitment to scholarship in PCBH through publications and presentations at both national and global conferences. CIC has published on a novel framework for evaluating the quality and effectiveness of integrated care training and implementation in various settings in medically underserved communities, called the Rutgers Integrated Care Evaluation (RICE) Research Framework, developed in interdepartmental collaboration with CIC's partners at the Rutgers School of Social Work. The Center for Integrated Care is a proud winner of the 2025 New Jersey Social Innovation Award for Excellence in Population and Public Health, awarded for innovative strategies improving clinical health outcomes, care coordination, and public health policy to create sustainable impact.

In June 2025, the Center for Integrated Care was awarded two additional HRSA grants—the Graduate Psychology Education Grant and the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training

Grant. Both grants support our mission to train the next generation of healthcare providers while continuing to expand integrated care practices.

CIC members proudly serve on boards where they advocate for integration efforts within the New Jersey Association for Mental Health and Addiction Agencies (NJAMHAA), and advocate for policies that further PCBH at the state level in partnership with the NJ Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (NJ DMHAS), including barriers to billing and cost-effective services. Thank you for considering honoring the Rutgers Center for Integrated Care for their work in service to the PCBH model.